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A LETTER *from the Cobler of* Glouſter *to the C*
Curriер of Hitchen: *Being Remarks on a Book Entitu*
The Infant's Cauſe pleaded; *Recommended to*
World by

BRITISH MUSEUM

Mr. Robinſon, *Mr.* Waters,
Mr. Billio, *Mr.* Watts.

NED,

YOU know that an *Obijt* was writ on my Grave long ago, and therefore it may be ſome Surpriſe to Receive this from me: But hearing that one of the *Leathern Fraternity* was turn'd Author, you may be ſure I had a Mind to ſee what was done; ſo I pack'd up my Auls, and went with a great Deſire to find out your Guardian Angel, to ſee if he could give me a Sight of the Book: But before I came at him, I wonder'd to ſee Four in Cloaks and Bands, ſtand before him; and ſo much the more, for ſeeing the leaſt of them all, with a Bard like Viſage, ſtep out from behind, crying *What's Rhime to*
Crambo?

In the Surpriſe, ſcarce knowing what I ſaid, but thinking of you both, bluntly popt out,

You are Coxcomb Ambo.

Well, ſo I paſs'd on till I found him I look'd for. *What Sir*, ſaid I) *is* Ned Hitchin *turn'd Author?* — *Author*, quoth a Author! *Why may not he be an Author as well as the Cobler of* Glouſter? His Impertinence provok'd me to give him a Stroke with my Stirrup, and I had Bac it with a *Ne Sutor ultra Crepidam*, o was afraid of giving my ſelf a Slap in Face.

But after ſeveral Things had paſs'd and *con*, with much ado I got a Sigh the Book; and looking to the End of Preface, I ſaw Four Names: Who are th thinks I; theſe an't Curriers and Cob I hope: But while it run in my H who they might be, I perceived them be of the Learned Tribe: Sure, thou I, this is ſome Topping Touch, that comes into the World with all this tendance! and calling to Mind that th might be the Men I ſaw in Cloaks Bands, I was as Proud of the Book a Countrey-Fidler is of a New Tune. Thi I with my ſelf, I never had the g Fortune to be Dubb'd Author on ſ Honourable Terms: Well, this muſt no Trifle to be ſure; and begun to th my ſelf out-done. Reading over the face, where I found you commended your Humility, the Clearneſs of your H and the Honeſty of your Heart; an

a *DON* in the Controverſy, I e'en
d my ſelf the Currier of *Hitchen*;
n Truth, I was afraid you would bear
the Bell, and that now the poor Cob-
f *Glouſter* muſt ne'er Peep again. Well,
ort, I thought there muſt be more
ordinary in't: So being uneaſy 'till
v more of the Matter, I flung Sole
Upper-Leather by to read it. But
I had done, and ſaw what a Con-
ction it is to the Preface, I thought
our Head was clear of any thing it
of Brains; and that the Gentlemen
never read the Book, or you were
Fools All-a-Row. You know that
ers as well as Curriers have but little
, but what they have they are willing
ake uſe of. I have a ſcrap juſt come into
Noddle, that fits the matter in Hand to
w's Thumb, and it is *Parturiunt Montes*,
a great Cry and a little Wool, quoth
Man that ſhore his Hogs.

wonder, for my Part, *Ned*, how ſuch
as recommend your Book (which,
ng the Weakneſs of the Argument,
tle elſe but Miſtake) could be guilty
great an Overſight: If they did not
it, how prettily they have Pam'd
the World they know not what!
ey did, they either ſhew their Igno-
in the Controverſy, or the Cunning
s have made uſe of you as the
ey did of the Cat's Foot, to reach
eſtnuts out of the Fire. Your whole
ſeems to ſuppoſe that the Anabap-
deny Infants to be in the Covenant
race; and having ſet up this Man of
w, you pay him off confoundedly for
ee or Four Chapters together: But
for an uncommon Hint to that Purpoſe.
ge 2, 3. "*What Clapping of Wings*
nd Crowing is there amongſt you? ——
ſpecially when you gain a Proſelite, when
ou get a Believing Parent to let go, to
ject and Contemn all that Faith in and
omfort which he once had from the Word
d Promiſe of God, touching his Chil-
en; and get him to take up hard Thoughts
"*of his Infants, to look on them as Members*
"*of Satan, and not of Chriſt's Kingdom.*

Methinks *Ned*, thy Metaphors ſmell very ſtrong of the Hen-Rooſt; and beſides, I profeſs I can't but laugh to ſee you pay it about thus in the Dark, like the Man that fought the *Barley-Roll* 'till he had broke his Knuckles, thinking 'twas a Man: For the Queſtion in Controverſy is not *whether Infants are in the Covenants of Grace:* But ſeeing Faith is abſolutely neceſſary to the Perſon Baptized, (as all confeſs) *Whether Infants, ſuppoſing them to be in the Covenant of Grace, may be Baptiz'd before they can make a Profeſſion of their Faith.* Or, to be plainer with you, *Whether the Infants of Believers have more certain Right to the Covenant of Grace* (which is founded on God's Sovereign and Eternal Love to his Choſen) *than any other.* The Anabaptiſts hold the Negative, the Pædobaptiſts the Affirmative. Some of the Pædobaptiſts ſay they may make this Profeſſion by Proxy, but the Anabaptiſts ſay the Scripture ſpeaks of proper Faith only, and that one Perſon may not be Baptized on the Faith of another. Some talk of the Seeds of Faith and ſeem to inſinuate that the Infants of Believers may be Baptized on this.

But to this the *Anabaptiſts* anſwer, That it is Unſcriptural; and beſides, that it may not be done, 'till we hear them make Confeſſion of their Hopes in God's Covenant Mercies: For, ſay they, we ſee Fathers who were in the Covenant have had Reprobates to their Children; and we had rather go in a Way that the Goſpel will warrant, than to preſume to do any Thing, where either the Act or its Conſequence is unlawful or doubtful; the Scripture being an utter Stranger to Seminal Faith, and condemneth the bringing any Thing into the Worſhip of God, upon Mens Suppoſitions. Let the Aſſertors of this Notion (ſay they) prove what they hold, and then we have more to ſay: But it being very likely that the Seeds of Faith, with Reſpect to Infants, have no

Place

Place but in the Brains of Men, they dare not make it any Part of their Creed.

What has been ſaid is a ſufficient Anſwer to the Three firſt Chapters, becauſe the *Anabaptiſts* will not think themſelves much concerned to be be ſure, where the Queſtion in Debate is miſtaken as it is in them. And truly *Ned*, thy Fourth was like to cure me of the Hiccup, in thinking where you had theſe well-choſen Objections. It's enough to give one the Gripes to read 'em; for ſurely theſe *Anabaptiſts* are ſilly Fellows to make ſuch Objections as theſe againſt that which they themſelves believe, or elſe thou'rt an old Dog at inventing for them.

But I think I muſt bring my Wheel-Barrow, and fill it with ſilly Objections, as I once did with Drunken P——s; for as ſoon as I popt my Noſe on the Fifth, there was another of the ſame Make, *Gaffer Gooſe-Cap*, who makes ſuch Objections as theſe: Beſides, ſince the Queſtion is miſtaken, they are like to be turn'd upon your own Hands; for I don't hear any Body will own them, and ſo as they are your own Brats, you are like to keep 'em.

But here comes an untoward Objection, Father'd on the *Anabaptiſts*, Chap. 6. *viz. That Chriſt turn'd Infants out of Doors.* This was a ſhrew'd Hint, and worth the Labour of a whole Chapter no Doubt; and it ſeems theſe dull Fellows for all that wou'd make another, or you for 'em, for *Chap.* 7. You make them ſay, if he did not, he might give his Apoſtles Commiſſion to do it. I profeſs it is a ſtrange Thing, that they cou'dn't ſee them hang to their Parents, as Cups hang to Flaggons, and all upon Chriſt, *p.* 89. Well, *Ned* when all is done, if theſe Things are true, theſe *Anabaptiſts* are ſad hard-hearted Fellows. What to turn Infants out of Doors! Out upon it! Who wou'd ha' thought it! I fancy this was one of the uncommon Hints that the Four Gentlemen commend you for. I am ſure 'twas a lucky Hit to ſet the poor Women againſt the *Anabaptiſts*. But *Ned*, they tell me they have as much Love for their Children as other Folks, and for them as heartily as any of you all; they can't for their Hearts believe Baptiſm without Faith, *i. e.* without feſſion of Faith, is in any wiſe their D *And tho' it be their Folly, it will not a from them, tho' they are bray'd in a Mo* p. 45. *But now for the Argument.* p. In *Acts* 2. 47. its ſaid, *The Lord add the Church daily, ſuch as ſhould be ſa* Now obſerve the Conſequence; there Infants of his People were added to Church. Well, I ſee we are not beho to *Ergo* for all the *Logick*; for *Tarbox* at a Pinch do as well: Come come, I ſee of the Leathern Craft have deep Thou ſometimes, but here comes the Clinch *For to deny this, is to ſay, that the Lord not ſave them, if they die Infants.* Poor *baptiſts!* You are ſmitten Hip and Th what will you do now? And beſides, proved as round as a Hoop, *that Paul* no *Anabaptiſt*, p. 81. For he aſſureth that if any one of the Parents believe Children are holy, 1 *Cor.* 7. 14. T *Anabaptiſts* you have loſt St. *Paul* as plu as a Gun, for it ſeems he is not of y Mind.

But Friend, I am afraid your miſta Brethren (as you call them) will not pleaſed that you ſay, *p.* 98. They continu put ſuch a Slight on the Writings of the *Teſtament* as muſt needs be a great Sin. think they won't believe you, and t may wiſh no Body elſe will; the Miſt perhaps lies here, They have not Penet tion enough to ſee in them what y great Wiſdom ſees; *for they are ignor enough you know:* Come, come, *Ned*, this a little too hard; What your Brethren a put a Slight on the Word of God, and t continually too! I think theſe that do ſo not fit to be called Brethren; and you m have a great Deal of Charity to call th ſo, if this be true, or elſe they are much beholden to you for belying the and I think they are as little obliged you for comparing them to *Phariſees* and *dances*, p. 103. But ſuch a Thing as an

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ist may be content you don't Curry his worse than all that I am afraid you will ry if I don't take Notice of your large borious Collection of Scriptures: Tru- think it was Labour to no Purpose; ou have miserably mistook the Que- said little or nothing to the Purpose; consequently have brought those Scrip- for nothing but to fill your Paper. But clude, I am heartily sorry to see you or of so weak a Book, and for those lemen, that they have committed such verfight. I am perswaded, if any *Ana-baptist* had hatch'd so much Impertinence and Mistake, he might ha' sought for a Patron in *Utopia*: 'Tis a Disgrace to all the Leathern Fraternity. But before I conclude, if there be any Thing in your Book worth answering, as I think there is not, I Recommend you to what these Learned Men, Mr. *Tombes* and Mr. *Stennet*, have written on this Controversy.

So, hopeing as you grow older you will grow wiser; I subscribe my self your real and Affectionate Friend,

The COBLER of GLOUSTER.

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